# NATIONAL

LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA NEWS

· OCTOBER 1999 ·

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*Volume X Number 1 October 1999*



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# The New Director-General

Jan Fullerton, Director-General, in her office, 1999
National Library of Australia

Jan Fullerton was recently appointed as the National Library's new Director-General. She talks to Penelope Layland about her career and her vision for the future

When a job vacancy arises at the top of a national institution, it is increasingly common for the search for candidates to go global. So when Warren Horton retired as Director-General of the National Library this year, the search for his replacement was no exception. What *was* exceptional was that, after a worldwide search, the job of leading the National Library into the next millennium went to an insider. Moreover, it went to someone who had come up through the Library ranks, right from her earliest job as probationary librarian.

Jan Fullerton, the new Director-General of the National Library (and the first woman to be appointed to the position), says she has been with the Library 'since childhood'.

She was a 20-year-old graduate, fresh from an Arts course at Queensland University, when she first approached the National Library for a job.

'I decided I wanted to be a librarian,' she says, 'so I wrote to a lot of libraries, including the National Library.'

The Library wrote back, advising her that it conducted a training program for librarians through the University of New South Wales but that all the positions for the current year had been filled. Perhaps she would care to apply the following year.

She didn't have to wait even that long. There was a cancellation and the Library contacted Fullerton and told her the year-long traineeship was hers if she wanted it. She wanted it.

After her traineeship, Fullerton was assigned to the Library's Film Division, where she worked for one year (and participated in the relocation of the Library to its home on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin) before switching to Australian Cataloguing.

It was while working as a cataloguer that Fullerton experienced the very beginnings of a revolution which would soon transform librarianship: automation. The very first form of automation in the cataloguing area was the introduction of the flexowriter, which produced punched paper tape records of Library holdings.

From cataloguing, Fullerton moved to indexing, helping to compile the Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS). The job involved scanning every periodical which entered the Library and selecting articles for indexing.

'I had the most arcane knowledge of anyone in the world,' Fullerton says. 'I could go to a dinner party and talk about anything.'

In 1972 Fullerton moved back to cataloguing in time for Australian librarianship's great leap into the technological age: the establishment of the automated *Australian National Bibliography*, which later led to the Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN).

Fullerton recalls the little yellow computer on which those early electronic catalogues were created: 'We would key into the IBM computer in Sydney and a tape [containing the new records] would come back down to Canberra in a truck,' she says.

ABN, an electronic catalogue for all Australian libraries, began in earnest in 1981. Fullerton compares the nature of the endeavour with the Library's more recent and sometimes controversial Kinetica project, the ambitious new-generation version of ABN.

Like Kinetica, ABN was initially greeted with suspicion by some in the library community. Selling the concept required the National Library to conduct a series of travelling roadshows to libraries around the country (much as it would do a decade later for the project which ended up as Kinetica).

The most revolutionary thing about ABN, apart from the technology, was

the Library's decision to run the system on a cost recovery basis, an area into which it had not previously ventured.

Fullerton's next move was upwards and outwards. She entered the area of selection and acquisition—first dealing with overseas publications, then with her early passion, Australian material.

From there she eventually moved to head up what was known as Program One, a sprawling role which took in both collections and reader services, incorporating two-thirds of the Library's staff. Her involvement now ranged from collection development to acquisition, preservation, storage, and pictorial material.

Fullerton's work brought her into contact with every facet of the Library and brought home to her the level of excellence and commitment which she says characterises the people who work for the National Library.

Fullerton robustly defends the direction the Library has taken in the past five or so years—analysing its collecting priorities, working out what it really needs to collect and imposing tighter financial management on certain areas of the institution. The somewhat controversial result has been a greater-than-ever concentration on Australian material, the cutting back on acquisition of overseas material (particularly periodicals) and a new emphasis on collecting electronic publications (including the emerging publishing phenomenon of electronic documents with no paper equivalents).

The key to the change in direction was, of course, Kinetica, the immensely ambitious networked library system which is finally up and running after a rocky start. Earlier plans to develop a system jointly with New Zealand (called World 1) failed and the plug was pulled. In the end, the National Library decided to go it alone and develop one of the most comprehensive national electronic library databases yet attempted anywhere in the world.

Fullerton says that Kinetica will naturally have teething problems, as any new system of its size and complexity is bound to, but she insists that the early results are promising. The rate of original cataloguing is already 80 per cent of what it was under ABN and the rate of searching is rising all the time.

The next step is to try to make the network more friendly for end users. At the moment its operation rests in the hands of librarians, but with some modifications to the interface it should eventually become more end user friendly.

Fullerton says that while 'print will go on forever', the pattern of even scholarly publishing is changing, and the Library has a responsibility to comprehensively record that transition. This means collecting representative samples of electronic publishing—'from the hugely scholarly to the highly ephemeral'—so that we have a sense, in the future, of what it was like at the point when the new technology was just taking off.

When someone has just been appointed chief executive of a huge organisation there is a natural interest in what visions the new boss has for the future, what changes they plan to set in train, what their agenda will be.

Ask such questions of Fullerton and she points out that since she comes to the job from the job just one rung down the ladder (she has been deputy to Warren Horton for the past few years), she has actually been intimately involved in setting the agenda for the Library for years.

One gets the sense that her vision for the Library is already up and running. There will be no radical about-face, no new and extraordinary directions taken. Fullerton asserts that consistency, continuity and comprehensiveness are qualities that characterise good libraries.

That is not to say that Fullerton does not have plenty of ideas about the challenges facing the institution.

Jan Fullerton, 1970
National Library of Australia

The first of these is how best to build the collections at a time when, paradoxically, the volume of print material is becoming greater than ever. Collecting is, after all, still the Library's major function and where most of the money goes, in the form of acquisitions, accessioning, cataloguing, housing and preserving.

Salvation, Fullerton says, lies in cooperation with other State libraries and the establishment of more clearly stated collection roles for individual institutions.

'The prime objective is to have the material in public institutions,' she says. It doesn't really matter where it is held, so long as it is held

(right) First ABN Network Committee Meeting, December 1981
National Library of Australia
Jan Fullerton is in the front row; the former Director-General Warren Horton is two rows behind her, in the middle

(below) Jan Fullerton with H.E. President Soeharto at the official opening of the 8th Congress of South-East Asian Libraries, Jakarta, Indonesia, 1990
National Library of Australia (NL37245)

somewhere, particularly as access methods improve.

And access is the next challenge. Not all of the Library's vast collections have yet been fully catalogued. The Sheet Music Collection and the Map Collection are examples. So is the Manuscript Collection, much of which has been described at collection level but not minutely catalogued.

Kinetica will make that task easier, Fullerton believes, as well as economically feasible, even if it may take another five years before the job is done.

One aspect of access about which Fullerton feels strongly is in-house publication. While many of the Library's traditional publishing efforts, such as indexes and guides to the collections, are now produced only on CD-ROM (and will increasingly be available only online), Fullerton says the fine book publishing activities of the Library are an excellent way of making the Library's significant holdings accessible to all. She likes the idea that there are things in the collection which Australians can actually have—even if only in facsimile form—in their own homes. Among the significant forthcoming publications will be the edited diaries of artist Donald Friend and, for 2001, a book describing the treasures of the National Library.

Exhibitions are another effective method of letting the public know 'what the Library is about', Fullerton believes, as well as a good way of advancing the cause of libraries and librarianship generally. She wants Library staff to have a more active presence outside Canberra—to undertake a program of 'show and tell' at various forums around the country. And she would like to get an active seminar program up and running again.

Plans are afoot to establish a Treasures Gallery in a public area of the Library, where some of the iconic pieces from the collections can be displayed.

Fullerton also wants to take Kinetica the next logical step. Her vision: to enable all Australians to have seamless, immediate access to the Library's resources, piece by piece, collection by collection.

Last year the Library met with State libraries and the Australian War Memorial to discuss a linked pictorial database. A business plan is being developed to see how it could possibly be established, module by module. Public money is spent acquiring the collections, Fullerton says, so they might as well be used as fully as they can be.

Such things are within reach, the new Director-General believes. The only problem is that 'all the time your imagination is running ahead of what you can achieve'.

Fullerton says that unlike collecting institutions like art galleries, where a curator assembles an exhibition and the public sees what the gallery wants it to see, the National Library is composed of a million fragments. Once full access is possible, it is up to the public to create its own image.

'It's like a kaleidoscope,' she says. The Library's job is to provide the pieces of coloured glass; it is up to individuals to turn the tube and create their own patterns.

Jan Fullerton, 1986
National Library of Australia (NL36067)

PENELOPE LAYLAND is a Canberra writer and journalist

George Lacey (c.1816–1878)
*'Oh! my goodness gracious, I'll be off.' — 'Hold on Poll my girl, all right'* c.1860
watercolour; 25 x 33.7 cm
Pictorial Collection (R3803)
National Library of Australia

# PRECIOUS AS GOLD

Between 1852 and 1861, many women accompanied their husbands to the Australian goldfields but only a handful recorded their experiences. Edward Duyker mines the National Library's collections in search of their memoirs

Between 1852 and 1861 more than 342 000 immigrants flocked to the Australian goldfields from Europe, joining thousands of hopefuls from other British colonies, China and the United States. Few would strike it lucky, but all would help lay the foundations for broader economic and social change in the Antipodes. Among these hopeful immigrants were many women who accompanied their husbands to, or joined their loved ones in, Australia. Only a handful of these women, however, published accounts of their experiences during the gold rush; others left precious memoirs which are only now being rediscovered.

The National Library holds a good selection of the valuable published accounts. They include first editions of Mrs Charles [Ellen] Clacy's *A Lady's Visit to the Gold Diggings of Australia in 1852–53* (1853), Elizabeth Ramsay-Laye's *Social Life and Manners in Australia: Being the Notes of Eight Years' Experience* (1861), Louisa Anne Meredith's *Over the Straits: A Visit to Victoria* (1861) and *Travels and Stories in Our Gold Colonies* (1867) in the Rex Nan Kivell and Ferguson Collections. These particular women writers had privileged backgrounds. In *Over the Straits*, Meredith (who made only a brief tour of the Bendigo and Ballarat fields after crossing from Tasmania) could not disguise her contempt for the ordinary women she met: 'the greater portion were sluttish and dirty in the extreme'. With little appreciation of their difficulties and concern over appearances rather than practicalities, she wrote:

> Women were cooking, scolding, smoking and nursing outside the hovels, with thick heavy stock-keeper's boots on, laced halfway up the leg, and tattered draggled gowns, 'kilted' high enough to

show the tops of them. Hordes of shaggy brown unkempt children were as usual wallowing in the mud.

The reader can readily contrast Louisa Anne Meredith's unsympathetic account with the words of yet another woman gold rush writer, Emily Skinner (née Fillan), who arrived in Victoria in 1854:

> Sometimes in lonely places where no other woman was within reach, perhaps sick and weak, I had to sit down beside the tub to do the necessary washing or attend to the children. At another time, finding myself on the floor with the poor child crying beside me, I was dimly conscious of having fainted away from weakness. How one longed for mothers and sisters at such times.

Born the daughter of a Scottish jeweller in London in 1832, it is unclear where Emily met her future husband William Eliott Skinner (1826–1913). Almost certainly they were engaged before Emily arrived in Australia. But the two did not travel together; William arrived first (possibly on the *Ganges* in June 1853). In her memoirs, Emily seems to have been deliberately ambiguous in her references to her marital status on disembarking from the steam packet *Lady Jocelyn* on 12 August 1854. In the passenger list published in the *Argus* the following day, she appears under her maiden name. She and William were married on 5 September 1854 in St Peter's Church, Melbourne. It is surprising that she makes no mention of this major event in her life. One suspects that her sense of Victorian propriety made her inclined to induce her readers to believe that she arrived a married woman. How would they view a writer who travelled, as a single woman, thousands of kilometres to meet her love far from family scrutiny? In her shipboard journal, Emily is careful to tell us she was effectively chaperoned by a Mrs Thomas; but those three pre-nuptial weeks in wild Melbourne Town, however innocent, posed potential embarrassment! Her journey north from Melbourne to join her husband on the Ovens diggings was equally problematic, yet she dares tell us of the strange man who began to undress in her room.

Despite the tones of correctness and occasional melodrama, the great charm of Emily Skinner's account stems largely from her lack of embarrassment in recounting the privations of life on the diggings. Emily is not afraid to tell her prospective readers in Britain, whom she perceives to be largely above domestic labour, that she regularly got her hands dirty. She writes frankly of living in a bark hut or baize-lined tent and of gaining supplementary income through dressmaking, washing and ironing. She writes amusingly of her naivety on arrival and delights in colonial neologisms. She reveals herself to be a compassionate observer capable of surmounting ethnocentric and religious prejudices when writing about the European brides of Chinese diggers or the adulterous brides of drunken European miners. She has good words, too, for Catholics, the Irish and the Americans. She is proud of her adventures in the wilderness and her labours. Most of all, she is proud of making ends meet and of creating domestic happiness under adverse conditions.

William and Emily Skinner had nine children between 1855 and 1873. Such was infant mortality on the unhygienic goldfields that a third of the Skinner brood did not survive to adulthood. Most of Emily's known writings date from her residence in Beechworth in the late 1870s. Some time in the following decade, she and William moved to the Melbourne suburb of Coburg where Emily died, aged 58, on 13 March 1890.

I first read a copy of Emily Skinner's gold rush memoirs in February 1993. They were sent to me by Eric Mamet, husband of one of my Mauritian cousins. Eric had received them in typescript (apparently dating from the 1930s) from his godmother, Kitty Duvivier, whom I would later discover was a descendant of Emily's sister Margaret Tuttenberg (née Fillan) and a niece by marriage of one of my great-aunts. At that time I only knew the author, clearly a woman, by the mysterious initials 'E.S.' and I was soon hopelessly smitten by this anonymous author's charms. (Indeed, my wife used to joke about a case of 'historical adultery'.) Ancillary documents in Queensland and Mauritius yielded her name, or rather the approximation 'Skimmers'.

(top) George Clausen (sen.)
*Emily Skinner (née Fillan)* c.1848
watercolour
Courtesy of Marjorie and Nancy Conquest, Benalla; photographed by Susan Duyker

(left) Madame la Comtesse Lionel de Chabrillan (Céleste) at the time of her marriage, 1854
Reproduced from *Vie et aventures de Céleste Mogador* by F. Moser

After protracted research in Victorian records and through contacts in England and Queensland, I was able to positively identify 'Emily Skinner' as the author, visit her last resting place, and make contact with several of her descendants living in Benalla, Shepparton, Melbourne and Sydney. As fate would have it, my first contact was with Emily's gracious granddaughters, Nancy and Marjorie Conquest. Their brother, Walter, and mother, Florence, had long recognised the significance of Emily's writings and had preserved handwritten copies of her shipboard journal, memoir, poems and short stories. I was deeply touched to be presented with these precious copies just before Easter 1994 (and have since donated them to the National Library). In addition, Nancy and Marjorie allowed me to copy an original watercolour and a number of photographs of their grandmother (as a teenager and in middle age) and sent me notes which helped flesh out historical details hard won from Victorian archives. Finally, in 1995, *A Woman on the Goldfields: Recollections of Emily Skinner 1854–1878* was published by Melbourne University Press.

The year before Emily Skinner penned her recollections, Céleste de Chabrillan published her memoirs of gold rush Melbourne under the title *Un Deuil au bout du monde* (Death at the End of the World). The National Library does not possess the original French edition of 1877, but it does hold these marvellous memoirs in the form of the English translation by Patricia Clancy and Jeanne Allen, published by Melbourne University Press in 1998 under the title The *French Consul's Wife: Memoirs of Céleste de Chabrillan.*

Born the illegitimate daughter of an impoverished milliner in 1824, Céleste Vénard was apprenticed as an embroiderer at the age of 11 before drifting into prostitution. Beautiful and intelligent, her misfortune was tempered by employment in a brothel frequented by the Parisian elite. Drawn to the stage, she performed as a dancer at the Beaumarchais Theatre and then as a bareback rider and charioteer at the Hippodrôme under the stage name 'Mogador'. A Parisian celebrity—it has been suggested she inspired Bizet's *Carmen*—Céleste was mistress to a succession of European noblemen before forming a lasting relationship with Count Lionel de Moreton de Chabrillan.

De Chabrillan belonged to one of the most illustrious aristocratic families in the Dauphiné, but his gambling debts barely covered his vast inheritance so he tried his luck on the Victorian gold fields in 1852. He returned to France in 1853, having failed to strike it lucky, but soon gained appointment as the new French consul in Melbourne. Céleste had apparently declined his initial proposal of marriage but agreed to accompany him back to Melbourne as his wife. They were married in England shortly before embarking on the *Croesus.*

Céleste would no doubt have made a fairly effortless transition from courtesan to countess in the Antipodes had she not written a revealing memoir of her earlier life. With the aid of a cousin of Emperor Napoléon III, she succeeded in having her name removed from the register of prostitutes kept by the prefecture of police, but she was unable to recover her manuscript from her publisher—who knew a bestseller when he saw it! The scandal would follow her to Melbourne where she would endure snubs and censure from the Melbourne establishment. These experiences would form the basis for *Un Deuil au bout du monde* and a novel, *Les voleurs d'or* (1857), of which

Henry Winkles (1800–1860)
*Interior of a digger's tent* c.1853
pencil on paper; 18.4 x 23 cm
Pictorial Collection (R10846)
National Library of Australia

the National Library holds Lucy and Caroline Moorehead's translation *The Gold Robbers* (Sun Books, Melbourne, 1970) and a precious copy of the 1864 dramatisation.

Because Céleste de Chabrillan wrote as the wife of the French consul, she offered a very different cultural perspective from the reminiscences of Ellen Clacy, Elizabeth Ramsay-Laye, Louisa Anne Meredith or Emily Skinner. And although she lived on the wooded fringes of Melbourne (in Collingwood and then St Kilda), her experiences in Australia were essentially urban. An accomplished horsewoman (no doubt thanks to her days at the Hippodrôme), Céleste was nevertheless uncomfortable when she ventured into the Australian bush and her prose contains few observations of the natural splendours which surrounded her. Furthermore, she did not recount the privations of the diggings as a participant observer as did Emily Skinner. Her home (eventually sold to pay for her husband's debts) was simple, but she did not live in a bark hut or baize-lined tent. Her husband was improvident, but she did not have to feed a large brood of children or earn supplementary income through dressmaking, washing and ironing. When she returned to France, she travelled first class.

Despite her humble origins and grievances towards Melbourne 'society', Céleste neither displays fundamental sympathy for the miners suffering the injustices of the undemocratic colonial administration nor makes mention of her husband's role in attempting to dissuade French diggers from supporting the Eureka rebellion. Indeed she is relieved at the end of the troubles and seems to have more pity for Governor Hotham than the fallen diggers. Nevertheless Céleste, a natural storyteller, captures a great deal of the ebb and flow of life around her. As the wife of the French Consul, she met many characters who came to her husband for help after all manner of misfortune and adversity. The memoirs conclude, very movingly, with the death of Lionel de Moreton de Chabrillan in Melbourne on 29 December 1858, aged only 40.

Aside from her memoirs and *Les voleurs d'or*, Céleste de Chabrillan published 11 other novels, 26 plays, seven operettas, 12 poems and 17 songs. She has also been the subject of several biographies and the National Library holds *Daughter of Paris: The Life Story of Céleste Mogador, Comtesse Lionel de Moreton de Chabrillan told by herself and Charlotte Haldane* (Hutchinson, London, 1961).

DR EDWARD DUYKER is an independent historian and Honorary Consul for Mauritius in Sydney

S.T. Gill (1818–1880)
*Zealous gold diggers, Bendigo, July 1st* 1852
coloured lithograph; 15.4 x 19.3 cm
Reproduced from *Victoria Gold Diggings and Diggers as They Are, Part 2*
Rex Nan Kivell Collection (NK586/10)
National Library of Australia

# Travellers' Tales: Views of Australia before Federation

Accounts by nineteenth-century visitors to the Australasian colonies are not always reliable but, as Roslyn Russell discovers, they add greatly to our understanding of Australian society before Federation

In August 1882, a young man from Massachusetts came to a decision: he must give up Melbourne's social whirl for the sake of his health. For weeks he had not gone to bed before daybreak, then wondered what day it was when he finally awoke. Thin from lack of sleep, and 'as pale as a stalk of celery' from lack of exposure to the sun, he concluded that 'the sooner I returned to a rational manner of living the better'.

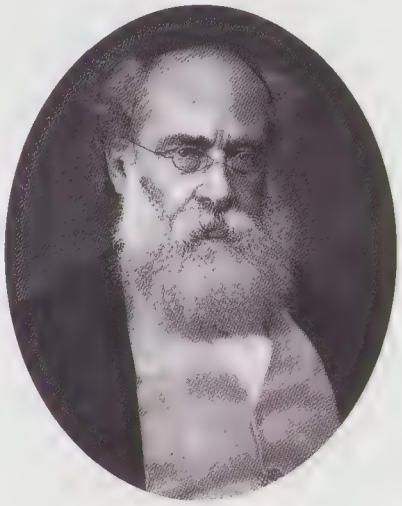
As a naturalist, collector and explorer he had endured many privations, but the social life of nineteenth-century Victoria had tested his physical resources to the limit:

> I have 'roughed' it by the week, lived on all kinds of food, camped in the snow, waded icy streams on the mountains, and been without dry clothing for days together, but I never felt so thoroughly worn out as after those few weeks of dissipation. In order to live through such a season one would need the constitution of a mustang, and the digestion of a ostrich.

The young man was Sherman Denton, author of *Incidents of a Collector's Rambles in Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea*, published in Boston in 1889. This work is one of hundreds of accounts in the National Library's collection written by travellers to the Australian colonies in the decades before Federation.

Some of these travellers are well known: Anthony Trollope, James Froude, Charles Dilke, Michael Davitt and Mark Twain are among those cited in any discussion of travel literature based on journeys to the Australasian colonies.

But these are the tip of the iceberg. Investigating the National Library's collection reveals publications by many other travellers, including a former Lord Provost of Glasgow; an



(top) 'Botanic Gardens' by James Froude
Reproduced from *Oceana, or England and her Colonies*, by James Anthony Froude (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1886)

(left) Portrait of Anthony Trollope (1815–1882)
Reproduced from *Men of Mark*, by Thompson Cooper (London: Sampson Low, Marston and Rivington,1877)

Indian member of the London Missionary Society; as well as journalists and political scientists.

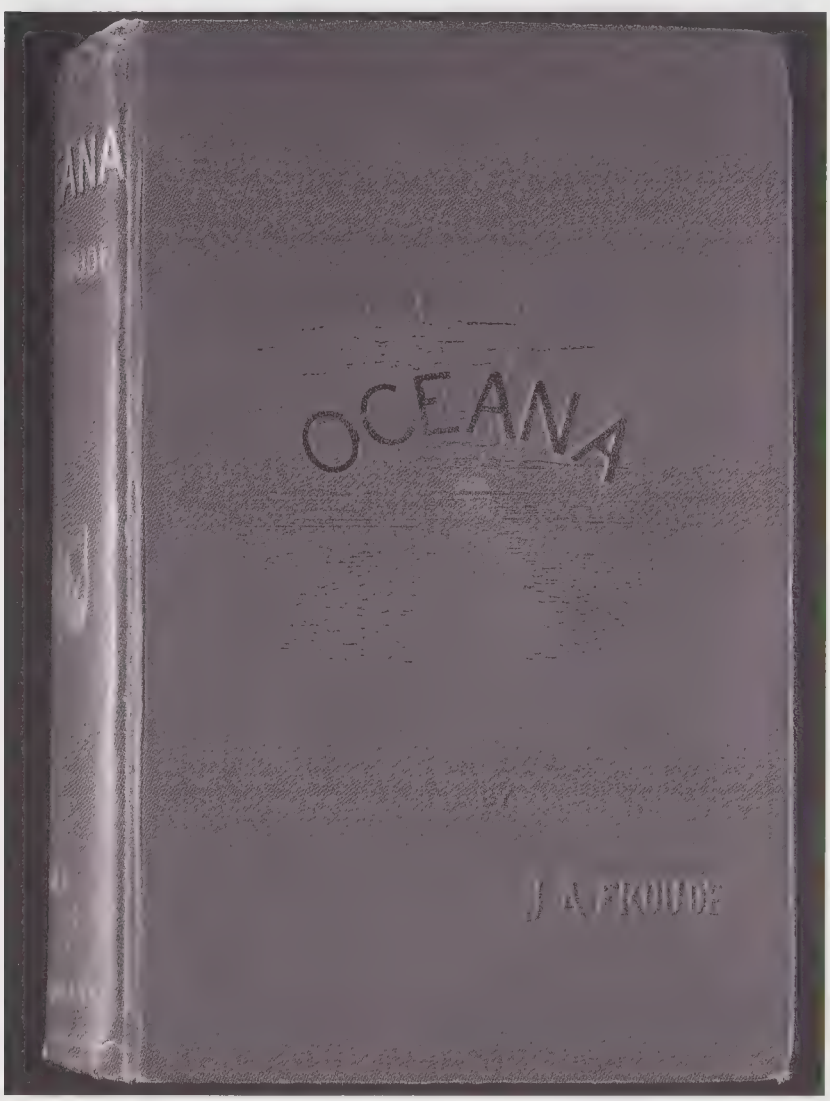
Some travellers were affluent people of mature years—the journeys on which they embarked implied significant financial resources. Many also received hospitality from the higher echelons of colonial society, a circumstance which has led to allegations that their accounts were skewed to a patrician perspective. There were also people like Sherman Denton.

Sherman and his brother Shelley visited Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea in the early 1880s with their father, Professor William Denton, a scientist and freethinker who wrote and lectured on evolution, geology, anti-slavery, temperance and spiritualism. Sherman combined supporting his father in his public appearances in the Australasian colonies with collecting natural history specimens.

From a late twentieth-century perspective, Sherman Denton's narrative of collecting smacks of environmental vandalism. There are few accounts as poignant as his description of shooting a lyrebird. One moment the bird was strutting on his mound, 'spreading his magnificent tail, and making the woods echo with his wonderful song', the next, after Sherman fired, 'he lay stretched upon the mound, his tail still spread, and every feather as perfect as when alive'.

Denton observed human behaviour along with that of the animals, birds and insects he collected. His descriptions of Pacific Island labourers and Chinese in north Queensland bring the perspective of a young American to an issue of major concern to the Australian colonies in the decades before Federation—non-European labour and immigration, and their place in a future Commonwealth of Australia.

Cover of *Oceana, or England and her Colonies,* by James Anthony Froude (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1886)




Pacific Island labourers—known as Kanakas—were brought as indentured workers to the Queensland sugarcane plantations. Denton admitted that these 'quite industrious' workers 'must well repay the trouble and expense of their transportation'. They had to work hard for little pay and were often cheated when they spent it.

But when they went home they took 'a large box filled with knives, hatchets, guns, ammunition, handsome calicoes, beads, rings, tobacco and like articles', ensuring that they were 'looked upon by their brothers as wealthy men, possessing all the luxuries one could desire'. Termination of the system of indentured labour would, two decades later, be a condition of Queensland's membership of the Federation.

Denton was scathing about the quality of white settlers in north Queensland, comparing them unfavourably with the Chinese who had paid a heavy tax to emigrate to Australia:

> Everyone holds them in contempt—nevertheless, if it were not for their industry, the dissolute English and Scotch would have nothing to sustain life but roast beef and whiskey ... If I wanted a good meal of the choicest fruits, I always knew where to find it. Pineapples, that made your mouth water; yellow-skinned bananas, waiting to be eaten; guavas, oranges, and melons; all could be had for a few pennies from the pleasant, painstaking Chinamen, the most polite men in the community.

This verdict was echoed by another traveller who visited Australia later in the 1880s. Nundo Lall Doss, from Calcutta, came to Australia on a tour of the Empire sponsored by the London Missionary Society. He was in Sydney at the time of the '*Afghan* crisis' of 1888, when a ship carrying numbers of Chinese immigrants was refused entry. A hastily convened

Premiers' Conference erected a barricade of anti-Chinese restrictions, which after Federation would become the 'White Australia' policy.

Doss reported the reaction of Sydney's housewives to threatened restrictions against Chinese:

> I heard many ladies say, that they did not know what to do when 'John', as they call the Chinaman there, went away, for he grew very nice vegetables and sold them so much cheaper than the English gardener.

Doss also experienced a situation which highlighted the need for a coordinated system of defence against exterior threat, an issue used by Sir Henry Parkes in his Tenterfield address in 1889 to call for the federation of the Australian colonies. The telegraph cable from Java to Australia ruptured, cutting the country off from Europe. Foul play was suspected and 'there was a panic in all the colonies', resulting in the mobilisation of the volunteer militias, and 'quite a war scare in the country for a few days'.

Doss alleged that the authorities used this as a pretext for 'testing the efficiency of their citizen soldiers and their ability to turn out at a moment's notice for active field service'. He happened to be in a South Australian country town when a gun boomed at ten at night, calling out the volunteers and creating suspense in the townsfolk, who thought that 'the enemy had at last come to their shores'. An underwater volcanic eruption was later found to be the culprit.

This Indian visitor, in common with most nineteenth-century travellers, saw Australian settler society and the institutions it had created as a microcosm of Britain. Coming from a populous country, he was mildly amused by the pretensions of Hobart which 'has now dignified herself into a city, yet in her size and population she is no larger than Serampur or Howrah'.

Nevertheless, said Doss, credit was due to 'English energy and enterprise':

> This little town, or city as we should call it now, has everything although in miniature, that a city should have. It has a Governor's Palace, a Parliament House with separate Assembly rooms for the Upper and Lower House, a Supreme Court, General Post Office, Telegraph Office, Treasury Buildings, Museum, Public Library, Town Hall, and many Banks and Churches.

The quality and range of public institutions in the Australian colonies was much commented upon by travellers. They enthused about botanic gardens in capital cities and provincial towns. Museums and public libraries, flagships of the civilising mission of British imperialism, were also much noted in travel narratives.

John Ure, ex-Lord Provost of Glasgow, said in a published lecture about his Australian tour, held in the National Library, that no-one by going to the colonies need sacrifice the amenities of social life: 'with confidence I give the assurance that in the large towns at least he will find what will satisfy him in all respects'. They would also discover 'an intense feeling of loyalty' to the Empire.

This opinion was echoed by James Froude in *Oceana, or England and Her Colonies*, published in 1886. He believed that the Australian colonies would never willingly separate from the mother country and could be incorporated within a great imperial federation.

But were the Australian colonies ready to federate with one another? Annoyances such as intercolonial customs barriers were encountered by American writer Mark Twain, who came to Australia in 1895 and wrote of his experiences in *Following the Equator* (1897). He remarked that 'Each Australian colony fences itself off from its neighbour with a custom-house. Personally, I have no objection, but it must be a good deal of inconvenience to the people.' The removal of intercolonial customs was one of the principal reasons for federation for many colonists.

Michael Davitt, who toured Australia in the late 1890s and published *Life and Progress in Australasia* in 1898, did not believe that federation was imminent. He had heard many public figures declare that 'it would not be realized for a dozen or more years to come'.

Davitt assumed the risky position of prophet, basing his assessment on conversations with Labor Party representatives, the complicated nature of tariff issues, and the improbability of overcoming the aloofness of Queensland and Western Australia. He declared, 'It will fail in my opinion to receive the necessary popular endorsement.'

Travellers do not always make the best prophets: both Froude, with his vision of imperial federation, and Davitt, with his lack of faith that federation could be achieved, were proved wrong. Nevertheless, accounts by travellers, be they quirky, partisan, or contingent upon social circumstance or professional situation, add much to our understanding of nineteenth-century Australian society.

ROSLYN RUSSELL is an historian with Australian Heritage Projects

Sir Henry Parkes at his desk in the Colonial Secretary's office, Sydney, 1891
Pictorial Collection
National Library of Australia

# COLLECTING CHINA

The National Library houses the largest Chinese language collection in the Southern Hemisphere. Diana Giese surveys the collection's holdings

If you want to explore the immense complexity of China and the Chinese, the National Library is an excellent place to begin. The oldest work in the Library is *Hsu tzu chih t'ung chien kang mu*, a political history of China in 32 volumes, published in 1476. In addition to this work, the Library holds the largest Chinese language collection in the Southern Hemisphere: books, serials, monographs, maps, pictures, posters and daily newspapers from every one of China's 27 provinces.

Over 240 000 Chinese language monographs are housed in the National Library, in addition to those in English and other western languages. The collection includes more than 5 000 Chinese language serial titles and there are resources from Taiwan, Hong Kong and South-East Asia.

Mr Cao Baohui of the National Library of China (centre), on six months secondment to the National Library of Australia, with staff members, 1992–93
Asian Collections
National Library of Australia

Material is also held which highlights China's many Australian connections. You will find, for instance, a book of reproductions of the paintings of Zhou Xiaoping, who came to Australia in 1988 and whose work is influenced by time spent with Aboriginal artists in northern Australia. You will also find Audrey

北京日報

北京市革命委员会机关报

第107号（总第5186号） 1967年8月5日 星期六

# 炮打司令部

（我的一张大字报）

（一九六六年八月五日）

毛泽东

全国第一张馬列主义的大字报和人民日报評論員的評論，写得何等好呵！請同志們重讀一遍这张大字报和这个評論。可是在五十多天里，从中央到地方的某些領导同志，却反其道而行之，站在反动的資产阶級立场上，实行資产阶級专政，将无产阶級轰轰烈烈的文化大革命运动打下去，顛倒是非，混淆黑白，围剿革命派，压制不同意見，实行白色恐怖，自以为得意，长資产阶級的威风，灭无产阶級的志气，又何其毒也！联系到一九六二年的右傾和一九六四年形"左"而实右的錯誤傾向，岂不是可以发人深醒的嗎？

'Gun down the headquarters'
Reproduced from *Peking Daily*, 5 August 1967
Yang Ye Collection
National Library of Australia
Mao used this poster to criticise his own government

Donnithorne's collection on Chinese economic and agricultural affairs, and the 3000-volume Australian Buddhist Library, in both Chinese and English. Sources on statistics, the social sciences and modern history are in daily use by businesses, government departments and students.

'We have deliberately concentrated on modern and contemporary China,' says Andrew Gosling, Chief Librarian, Asian Collections. 'We are particularly strong on material since 1949, so our holdings parallel the development of the People's Republic of China. We collected right through the Cultural Revolution. And during the 1980s, our Chinese language collections doubled in size.' Recently, the vast amount of available material plus price increases have led to a more selective collecting policy. Chinese material is still, however, assigned very high priority, the second highest priority after Australiana. This indicates the regard in which it is held by the Library.

Wan Wong, Chinese Librarian, Asian Collections, is responsible for making the all-important selections of material. 'We concentrate on major works, especially original documentary material,' she says. 'We also scan magazines and newspapers to find out about the hot topics, the controversies within China. Then we try to get materials about those.'

In the past few years, she says, the Library has seen interesting developments in publications on current Chinese politics. 'New Chinese populations which have moved to places like the United States and Canada have put out "insider" accounts of the private lives of Chinese leaders, and their power struggles. These are of considerable interest to our readers.'

Recent immigrants to Australia often write about more mundane matters, such as the basic skills needed to maintain their lives in the new country. They produce translations of government pamphlets and descriptions of student, work and married life.

Surveying the English language collections gives a sense of the ways the Chinese have lived in Australia over time. The Library holds mining and regional histories involving the Chinese in Australia, and accounts of White Australia's restrictive legislation and anti-Chinese racism.

(above) 'Long live the Chinese Communist Party', 1974
poster
Asian Collections
National Library of Australia
This celebrating group consists of representatives of the military, workers, peasants and intellectuals, as well as different minorities

(below right) Kwong Sue Duck (1853–1929)
Diary (detail)
Manuscript Collection
National Library of Australia

There are also examples of spirited defences by the Chinese of their rights in this country, and concern with affairs in China is another continuing theme. Included in the collections are a 1913 souvenir to mark the first anniversary of the Chinese Republic, published by Sydney's Chinese Republican Committee, and 1997's *China Without Deng* by University of Technology, Sydney Professor David S.G. Goodman and Gerald Segal.

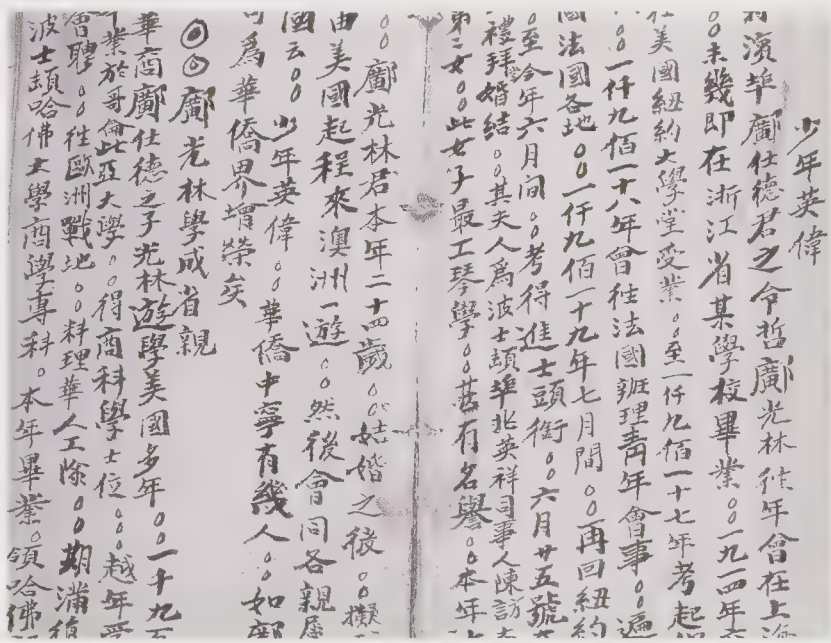
The books and theses of the past decade highlight the many significant contributions Chinese Australians have made to our development. Then there are the newsletters, yearbooks and celebratory publications of the hundreds of Chinese community associations around the country. These complement the Chinese language newspapers, past and present, published here. There are also personal collections of Australians with a special interest in China, such as those of historian C.P. Fitzgerald; the diaries and articles of Myra Roper, who visited China during the Cold War era; and the papers of Nicholas Jose, who was Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Beijing from 1987–90.

Through the oral history collections, Chinese Australians' own voices are increasingly clearly heard. The Australia–China Oral History Project, a joint initiative by the Australia–China Council, the Museum of Chinese Australian History and the National Library, is focused on the years before 1949 and records interviews with both Chinese Australians and others who lived in China. In the late 1960s, Jim Chi was interviewed about his father's childhood in China, his experiences on the Victorian goldfields and his later years operating pearling luggers from Broome. In 1978, Hazel de Berg interviewed William Liu, doyen of Sydney's Chinese community. In the 1980s, interviewees included Herbert See Poy, of the dynasty which built up north Queensland's biggest department store in Innisfail, and Alec Fong Lim, the second Lord Mayor of Darwin of Chinese descent. In 1991, Arthur Gar-Lock Chang, former Secretary of the Chinese Seamen's Union, was interviewed.

The National Library's Post-War Chinese Australians Project, begun in 1992, has grown into more than 85 interviews with people countrywide. They include interviews with people from the 'old families', such as the Lius and the See Poys, who have been in Australia for five generations and interviewed over two or three. There are interviews with those who came from Malaysia or Singapore for education, from Vietnam as boat people, and more recent arrivals from Hong Kong and China itself. Interviewees include pioneers, community elder statesmen, Members of Parliament and young achievers. The project has highlighted the interconnections between communities over time, through clan links, business ties and intermarriage, across Australia and back to the ancestral homeland itself. The Chinese–Australian Oral History Partnership, by inviting financial donations and suggestions of possible subjects for interviews, aims to extend this work.

Related documentary and pictorial material is held in the Manuscript Collection. The diary, in Chinese characters, of Queensland businessman and herbalist Kwong Sue Duk, for instance, is being translated and some of his 800 descendants have been interviewed. With other material from the collections, the diary will be displayed in the Library's Visitor Centre in October to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Interaction between communities



and the Library has been a continuing theme of the development of the Chinese language collections. Staff members command a high standard of both written and oral Chinese and this has proved useful in the many exchanges over the years with Chinese libraries. Relationships with the National Library of China extend back to the 1940s. There were acquisition and exchange trips and delegations through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Professional exchanges are now routine. Ms Ma Jing, for instance, visited the Library from January to June 1998, and Mr Gu Ben was here for six months in 1997–98. All placements have Australia–China Council financial support. Andrew Gosling says that, while learning automated cataloguing skills, visitors also help the Library with cataloguing its own collections, and are able to experience other areas and other libraries. They are invaluable contacts on their return home.

There is also a well-developed network of gift and exchange agreements with institutions in China and Taiwan. They receive Australian Government and National Library material and send monographs and serials in return, an important method of acquiring such material.

Within Australia, there is constant liaison with other libraries with large Chinese holdings, such as the libraries of the Australian National University (ANU), Monash University and the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne. A recent agreement with the ANU includes distributed (or shared) collecting of Chinese provincial and major city statistical yearbooks, a vital source of data. 'We've agreed on a north–south divide,' says Andrew Gosling. 'North of the Yangtze, they collect, and south, we do. That's a practical way of dealing with a growing collecting area.'

The National Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Service is another result of collaboration. A national union catalogue available via the Internet, it includes Chinese, Japanese and Korean holdings—in the appropriate characters—not only in the National Library but the major universities as well.

The Library's work on China and the Chinese combines high quality, up-to-the-minute research collections with vibrant exchanges and lively and dynamic cultural links. It is an area that is sure to expand into the new century, as China and Australia strengthen their relationships at all levels.

DIANA GIESE is the Coordinator of the National Library's Post-War Chinese Australians Project, which has resulted in the publication of *Beyond Chinatown* (National Library of Australia, 1995) and *Astronauts, Lost Souls and Dragons* (University of Queensland Press, 1997)

(above) Mo Xiangyi
*Harvest of Endurance Scroll* 1988 (detail)
ink and colour on paper;
mounted on silk and paper
Reproduced courtesy of Australia–China Friendship Society
Collection: National Museum of Australia

(below) The (then) Director-General Mr Warren Horton with Diana Giese and speakers at the June 1999 Sydney function to celebrate the Chinese–Australian Oral History Partnership
Courtesy of Diana Giese

# Recollections of a Reader

Public Record Office, Kew Building, pre-1993
Courtesy of the Image Library

From the Public Record Office to Duke Humfry's Library: Graeme Powell recalls nine years spent in the reading rooms of the United Kingdom's archives and libraries

In January 1979 I made my first visit to the Public Record Office, one of the world's great archives. Standing beside the River Thames, a short walk from Kew Gardens, the new building was a striking edifice of concrete and glass. It was shaped rather like an ark and some of the readers wondered whether, if there were a sudden flood, it would float down the river to the North Sea. In those days, before the Thames Barrage was erected, floods were not uncommon and for that reason the records were shelved on the upper floors of the building, above the reading rooms.

The main reading room, easily seating 200 readers, was one of the largest in which I have worked. Windows on all sides made it exceptionally light, even if the outlook in winter was usually dark and gloomy. The readers, who sat at hexagonal tables, were supervised by two elderly gentlemen, ensconced in pulpits, as well as by roving uniformed attendants. Security cameras were also conspicuous.

New technologies were a feature of the Public Record Office and in some respects it was at least 20 years ahead of most other archives and libraries. On my first visit I was alarmed to find that, instead of filling out call slips, I would have to order records at a computer terminal. This was a novel experience for most readers but it turned out to be quite straightforward and, apart from occasional crashes, it was an efficient system. In time I came to appreciate the instant messages on the screen informing me that a document I needed was closed for 100 years, or was with another reader, or had been withdrawn for

(above) British Museum (south facade) Bloomsbury, London
Courtesy of British Museum Press and Public Relations

(below) National Library of Wales Aberystwyth, Wales

conservation. Each reader was issued with a pager which beeped and flashed when a box or file was ready to be collected. Most of us carried our pagers around with us and quiet

beepings could often be heard in the cafeteria and the toilets, as well as in the Reading Room.

For nine years (1979–87) most of my waking hours were spent in the reading rooms of libraries, archives, learned societies and other institutions in Britain and Ireland. I was paid by the National Library and the State Library of New South Wales to discover and microfilm manuscripts and other unique records relating to Australia and the Pacific. In this task I was often helped by British archivists and by other researchers who referred me to particular Australian records. I stood for hours at catalogues and reference shelves, thumbing my way through cards, accession registers and lists. All catalogues, however, have their limitations and I found that most records were not indexed by geographical terms. There were curious cataloguing practices (Tasmania was often entered as though it were a separate country) and blunders (Sydney, Nova Scotia confused with Sydney, Australia). Ultimately, I had to examine every document or collection that looked likely to contain references to Australia.

In those years I visited about 80 reading rooms. I mostly lived in London and each year spent weeks or even months at the Public Record Office at Kew and the British Library at Bloomsbury. I also travelled a good deal and had long spells at the Bodleian Library at Oxford, the Hydrographic Office at Taunton, and the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. In contrast, my visits to county record offices and other local archives were usually limited to a few days.

Many of the libraries were in imposing buildings. The old British Library building was designed to be 'chaste and grand and truly classical' and readers were humbled, if not intimidated, by the Ionic columns, the huge galleries, and the walls lined to the high ceilings with bound manuscripts and rare books. Twentieth-century buildings, such as Cambridge University Library or the National Library of Scotland, had austere facades but noble reading rooms. In most instances, very little outside light penetrated the reading rooms. Windows were either non-existent or were placed high in the walls, revealing nothing but a glimpse of sky. The contrast with the Public Record Office was extreme.

Most archives were housed in buildings that had originally served other purposes. The record offices at Worcester and Chichester were in deconsecrated churches, while the archives at Northampton was in a former abbey. At Durham University the archives was in the prior's kitchen, part of the finest Romanesque building in England. The Cumbria Record Office was located in Carlisle Castle, while the Irish State Paper Office was in one of the towers of Dublin Castle. Being round, it was hardly ideal for shelving.

Some of the learned societies were in former aristocratic houses. The Royal Astronomical Society and the Geological Society of London had reading rooms in Burlington House, once the London home of the Earl of Burlington and the Duke of Devonshire. One of the oldest buildings I visited was Lambeth Palace, where the papers of the Archbishops of Canterbury were housed. Standing a few yards from the Thames, it also faced the risk of flooding and the card catalogues and reference books were all in upper galleries.

The size of the reading rooms varied greatly. The Manuscript Reading Room in the British Library could seat nearly 100 readers, whereas in the House of Lords Record Office ten readers created a squash. In the British Library, each reader had a large desk with a stand for the volumes, while elsewhere three or four readers shared a table. Competition for horizontal space became intense if some readers were using maps or large ledgers. In the National Library of Ireland each reader had a desk, but of a size better suited to schoolchildren. The common features of nearly all the reading rooms were the lack of light and the sombre furnishings: dark wood panelling and shelving and dark bindings of most of the finding aids and reference books.

While readers could seldom see the outside world, they were occasionally distracted by extraneous noises. The National Library of Ireland adjoined the Dáil (the Irish Parliament) and the sounds of demonstrators sometimes penetrated the Reading Room. On one occasion I was lured outside by the noise and saw riot police lined across the courtyard. Civil war was clearly imminent. I was a little disappointed to find that the howling mob were schoolteachers, protesting about salaries. At the Greater London Record Office at Clerkenwell, a rather seedy part of London, strident striptease music, coming from the pub next door, could often be heard at lunchtime.

Reading rooms tended to be much busier in summer when scholars from North America, Europe and further afield invaded Britain. Even the large rooms became crowded and experienced researchers made sure they arrived early. A sad sight at the British Library was the queue of people outside the Reading Room, sometimes waiting hours for desks to become available. In winter there was hardly ever any difficulty in finding a seat. The drawback, however, was that reading rooms were often cold. In most libraries and archives preservation of the materials had priority over the comfort of readers and the heating was carefully controlled.

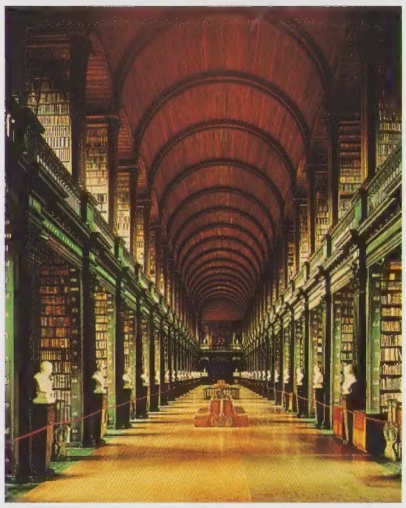
The large reading rooms, even when crowded, were generally quiet. Readers spoke to staff but readers who talked to each other were sometimes evicted. Noisy microfilm readers were placed in separate rooms or cubicles. Laptop computers were unknown. In the Public Record Office a few readers preferred to use tape recorders rather than take notes. They were supposed to sit apart, but they were still glared at by other readers. Conditions in county record offices were quite different. A majority of the users in these archives were genealogists and frequently they arrived in pairs. They not only talked loudly to the archivists about the history of their families but conversed continually with each other about their discoveries and disappointments. They seemed oblivious to the scowls and stares of solitary researchers. The reading room staff in these archives had abandoned their efforts to enforce quietness, much less silence, and it required great concentration to carry on with research.

One reading room that was neither crowded nor noisy was in the Royal Society, the famous learned society founded by Charles II in 1660. In the four months that I worked there, I was often the sole reader; sometimes there would be one or two Fellows reading newspapers or the latest issues of scientific journals. The Society was housed in Carlton House Terrace, designed by the Regency architect John Nash in 1827, a huge colonnaded building overlooking the Mall and St James' Park. A grand staircase and halls lined with portraits led to the Reading Room with its frescoed ceiling. I always sat next to one of the tall windows and each morning there was a flash of colour as the Horse Guards rode by on their way to Buckingham Palace. I became accustomed to my palatial surroundings and was sorry when I eventually completed my survey of the papers of Lord Rutherford, Lord Florey and other scientists.

By Australian standards, the opening hours of most reading rooms were less than generous. The usual hours were 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on weekdays. The Manuscript Reading Room in the British Library did not open until 10.00 a.m., while in the National Library of Ireland the room was closed for the lunch hour. The only exceptions that I can recall were the university libraries and the National Library of Scotland, which remained open in the evenings and on Saturday mornings.

The National Library of Scotland also retrieved manuscripts promptly and altogether it was one of my favourite libraries. Elsewhere stack retrieval varied greatly. The British Library provided an excellent service for manuscripts and an appalling service for books. Service at the Public Record Office became slower as the day went on and by midafternoon delays of up to an hour were common. At some of the smaller

The House of Lords, Parliament, Westminster from Victoria Tower, 1999
Courtesy of House of Commons Education Unit



(top) Bodleian Library, Arts End, looking south-east (1610–1612)
Reproduced from *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of Oxford* (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1939)

(above) The Long Room, Trinity College Library, Dublin
Courtesy of the Board of Trinity College, Dublin

record offices there were only three or four retrievals a day. Some readers were unaffected by these limitations, as they spent all day intensely studying a single manuscript. For those of us surveying many manuscripts, some of which were sure to be irrelevant, the waiting could be very frustrating.

As I travelled northwards to Scotland and across the Irish Sea I found the accents becoming stronger, but talking to staff in reading rooms I was seldom hampered by either language or terminology. The major exception was the National Library of Wales where they all spoke Welsh. I could only smile when greeted by the attendants at the front door and pray that in the Reading Room the staff would have pity on me. They did; the fact that I at least had a Welsh name possibly helped. In the National Library of Ireland, English was the main language but a number of manuscript readers spoke Gaelic. It was clear that they were the prime clientele and the other readers were treated far more cursorily.

It is easy, and unfair, to generalise about the staff of different libraries and archives. The rudest were in the old Public Record Office in Chancery Lane; the most condescending were in the British Library; the friendliest were in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland; the most erudite were in the Bodleian Library. The differences among the staff of particular institutions were more important. At the Greater London Record Office, for instance, the chief archivist was totally obstructive, yet her staff were always friendly and helpful. Like many readers, I watched the reading room staff closely and soon formed an impression about each individual: the knowledgeable, the bad-tempered, the lazy, the flexible, the stickler for rules, the energetic and the enthusiastic. It was often wise to defer a request until there had been a changing of the guard at the Reference Desk.

Some staff were annoyed by the number of call slips I submitted, while others showed sympathy and were willing to ignore the usual limits. Occasionally they suggested I retrieve the material myself, or even work in the stacks. At the Royal Society I sat alone in the basement, working my way through the Florey Papers. At the House of Lords Record Office I was taken to one of the top floors in the Victoria Tower where the records were stored and spent a day working in the stacks. It happened to be a sunny day and the view through the narrow Gothic windows of the Thames, the Abbey and the whole of Westminster was superb.

I admired the ability of many of the desk staff who, in the space of half-an-hour, might enlighten readers about the mysteries of medieval title deeds, nineteenth-century tithe maps, or twentieth-century political papers. They showed great patience with readers who could not read the handwriting in documents, a problem likely to worsen in the computer age. I was not always impressed by the chief archivists. They were doubtless good managers, but some seemed to know little about the contents of their collections and were hardly ever seen in the reading rooms. On the other hand, the county archivists at Dorset, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire and a few of the other record offices had been working with their collections for 30 or 40 years. They enjoyed dealing with readers and they referred me to interesting groups of Australian letters and other papers which I would never have discovered on my own.

I left England in 1987. Until then reading rooms had not changed greatly in centuries. Computers were not visible, except in the Public Record Office, and card catalogues and even book catalogues still prevailed. The staff on one side of the desk and the readers on the other side all wrote by hand, usually with pencils.

The extreme case of an unchanging reading room was Duke Humfry's Library, part of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Named after the brother of Henry V, it was built in 1489. The furnishings were mostly Jacobean and the alcoves were lined with seventeenth- and eighteenth-century books (no longer chained). With its hammerbeam roof, the dark wood of the shelving, stained glass windows, and the quiet murmurs of staff and readers, it had almost the sanctity of a cathedral. At closing time a church bell was rung. Occasionally the sound of a phone intruded but, when sitting at an oak table reading the letters of Wilberforce or Gladstone, it was easy to forget that it was the late twentieth century. I enjoyed working in most of the reading rooms in Britain and Ireland, but seldom have I experienced such contentment as in Duke Humfry's Library.

GRAEME POWELL is Manuscript Librarian at the National Library of Australia.

# Informing Friends

On 7 August, Dr Michael Coper presented a keynote address entitled *The Republic Referendum: Respectable Refurbishment or Retrograde Rhetoric* to over 100 Friends of the National Library and their guests. Because of demand, an edited version of Dr Coper's address will be published in the November issue of *National Library of Australia News*. The dinner following Dr Coper's address was also a great success with 90 diners enjoying delicious food and stimulating company.

In the August edition of *National Library of Australia News*, I mentioned that five positions on the committee will fall vacant at the end of this year. In fact, all 12 positions fall vacant each year. This year, five members of the present committee are not eligible to stand for election to the 2000 committee. If you would like to nominate for membership of the committee, please complete the nomination form and return it to the Executive Officer on or before 1 November 1999. Nomination forms are enclosed with this issue and can also be requested from the Friends Office.

Judy Heap
Executive Officer

(below) Friends enjoying Dr Coper's address on the Republic referendum, and the subsequent dinner at the Southbank Restaurant

(below right) Chair of the 1999 Friends Committee, Warwick Bradney, at Dr Coper's address

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October – December 1999

**Children's Holiday Workshops**
Encourage your junior friends to become French explorers of the Pacific Ocean by searching for clues in the *Terre Napoléon* exhibition and then making their very own sea creatures
*5–7 year olds*
Date: Tuesday, 5 October
Time: 10.30 am–12.00 noon
*8–12 year olds*
Date: Wednesday, 6 October
Time: 10.00 am–12.00 noon
Venue: Meet outside Exhibition Gallery
Cost: $10
Bookings essential

**Kenneth Myer Lecture**
To be given by Jillian Broadbent, member of the Reserve Bank of Australia Board
Date: Thursday, 7 October
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: Theatre, LG1
Drinks in the Foyer afterwards
Free admission
Bookings essential

**Spotlight on the History of Voyaging**
Dr Robert King, historian and linguist, will give a talk on the history, politics and intrigue of voyaging in the decades leading to the Baudin expedition and the years beyond its conclusion
Date: Thursday, 14 October
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Exhibition Gallery
Free admission
No bookings required

**Celebration of the Literary Achievements of Tim Winton**
Date: Sunday, 7 November
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: National Library Foyer
Admission free
Bookings essential

**Cultural Weekend — Crookwell District**
Join Friends for a great weekend learning about the achievements of landscape designer Edna Walling
Date: Friday, 19 November – Sunday, 21 November
Bookings essential

**Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party**
Date: Wednesday, 1 December
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: Theatre, LG1

**For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:**
***Friends of the NLA***
National Library of Australia
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6262 1698
Fax: (02) 6273 4493
Email: friends@nla.gov.au
Web site: http://www.nla.gov.au/friends/

NL 99014 Penguins

NL 98053 *Poissons ... des Terres Australes* (Fish) 1718

NL 98054 *Hic Zodiaci XII sub Signis Feliciter Volvitur Terra* (Map) 1615

NL 99013 *Wrens*

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# *On the cover this month*

Robert Hillingford (1825–1904)
*Emigrants to South Australia* c.1800
watercolour; 30 x 49 cm
Rex Nan Kivell Collection (NK5060)
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